

McCaslin, an outstanding leader for the Spokane Valley, who sadly passed away on March 13. Bob was one of my colleagues in the Washington State Legislature—a place where he proudly served for thirty years—and I can personally testify that he was one of our most well-liked, well-respected members. He will be dearly missed.

A U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, Bob McCaslin graduated from Washington State University, worked for Kaiser Aluminum and later owned a real estate firm. He was first elected to the State Senate in 1980 and was re-elected easily every four years, sometimes with only token opposition. While there, he opposed most tax increases and supported most efforts to shrink state government.

He also earned a reputation for being “the master of a well-timed story or joke,” as Senate Minority Leader Mike Hewitt recently told our local newspaper, the Spokane Spokesman-Review. “Bob was always the one who, when things were going badly in caucus, could get things calmed down. He’d tell a little story.”

At the start of this year’s session, Bob was the longest serving Republican State Senator. However, Bob resigned his seat in January due to ill health. He continued serving, however, as a Spokane Valley city councilman. News of his passing was greeted with sadness by the Spokane Valley community and also by his many friends in Olympia and throughout Washington State—regardless of party.

Bob McCaslin was a great leader and his passing is a great loss for Eastern Washington. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Bob’s memory and to keep his family in their thoughts and prayers.

THE MARINE DEBRIS ACT REAUTHORIZATION AMENDMENTS OF 2011

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the bipartisan the Marine Debris Act Reauthorization Amendments of 2011 which was introduced earlier today by my friend and colleague Congressman SAM FARR, from California. I sponsored similar legislation in the 111th Congress and I commend Congressman FARR for recognizing the importance of this legislation and his efforts toward its reintroduction.

Marine debris comes in many forms and from many sources, each posing as a threat to birds, fish and other wildlife, while also affecting navigational safety, and polluting our beaches. Once passed, this legislation will serve to reduce the adverse impacts marine debris has on our marine ecosystem, the economy, and public safety. NOAA’s existing Marine Debris Program supports important projects throughout the country, including beach cleanups, derelict fishing gear location and removal, and educational campaigns. Oftentimes these projects will enlist the assistance of out-of-season fishermen and other members of coastal communities. The program helps to locate and track marine debris to avoid threats to navigational safety. This re-

authorizing language would serve to streamline these programs by avoiding any overlaps or conflicts with other federal agencies.

NOAA’s Marine Debris Program directly benefits the environment and the economy of coastal communities throughout the nation. Our fisheries, recreation, and tourism industries are dependent on clean beaches and healthy marine ecosystems.

Guam would greatly benefit from the passage of the Marine Debris Reauthorization as it would give states and local communities the additional tools we need to effectively protect our marine environments and wildlife. Again, I would like to thank Representative FARR for introducing this legislation, as well as Rep. DON YOUNG, Rep. DANA ROHRBACHER, Rep. DONNA CHRISTENSEN, and Rep. PEDRO PIERLUISI for joining me as original cosponsors. I encourage my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I was detained from voting on Wednesday, March 16, 2011. If present, I would have voted “yea” on the following rollcall votes: rollcall 183, rollcall 184, rollcall 185, rollcall 186, and rollcall 187.

I would have voted “nay” on the following rollcall vote: rollcall 188.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today I missed rollcall vote number 175 on H.R. 793, and rollcall vote number 176 on agreeing to H. Con. Res. 27. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on both votes.

IN HONOR OF GREG DAVIS, CEO
OF DAVIS BROADCASTING, INC.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great organization and two friends of long-standing, Greg and Cheryl Davis. Davis Broadcasting began Twenty-Five years ago with a vision and determination to make the world a better place to live. But, to understand where Davis Broadcasting is today, you have to understand the man behind the vision.

Greg Davis was born in Fort Smith, Arkansas. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Biology from Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee, and went on to faithfully serve in the United States Army. He later furthered his education and received his Masters Degree from Eastern Michigan University.

The scripture says in proverbs that: “Trust the lord with all your heart, and lean not

on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge him and he shall direct your path.” Greg Davis has always kept God in the forefront of his life. God directed his path to find a life partner who stood with him in his life’s work. And that in turn led to birth of his three children: Geniece, Michelle, and Greg, Jr.

God also directed his path from a Community School Director in Michigan to a 37-year career in T.V. and Radio Broadcasting. He began his career in broadcasting, spending 12 years in marketing and sales management. His television career took him from Flint Michigan to Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Detroit; concluded in Cincinnati, Ohio as General Sales Manager of Multimedia Broadcasting.

He started Davis Broadcasting, Inc. in June of 1986 by acquiring radio stations in Columbus and Augusta, Georgia. Most people would have been happy with these two stations, but Mr. Davis wanted to expand his presence in radio by reaching diverse audiences all across the country. He went on to purchase stations in Macon, Georgia, Columbus, Georgia, Atlanta, Georgia and Charlotte, North Carolina. In 2000, he sold the radio stations in Charlotte and Augusta to expand his operations in the Columbus community that he has grown to love.

His radio stations touch the lives of all people from all walks of life. The different music genres that his stations encompass include urban contemporary, gospel contemporary, music focused on the Hispanic population and sports. His station WFXX-FM, better known to all of us as Foxie 105 has remained as the number one Arbitron rated radio station in the Columbus media market for 24 of the 25 years it has existed.

Finally, Greg and Cheryl Davis and Davis Broadcasting have given back to their community with service on numerous community boards. The Company also puts on annual events such as the Family Day in the Parks and the Needy Children’s Christmas party, which provides three to four thousand needy children with a gift at Christmas. They truly understand the words of Shirley Chisholm when she said that, “Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth.”

Mr. Speaker it gives me great pleasure to stand before you to honor the legacy of Greg and Cheryl Davis and the 25-year legacy of Davis Broadcasting—a legacy that endures, and whose best days are yet to come.

HONORING REV. DR. HENRY
THOMAS SIMMONS

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize a respected leader in my community, Rev. Dr. Henry Thomas Simmons, who is celebrating twenty years of dedicated service to the St. Albans Congregational Church in my district.

Since March 1, 1991. Dr. Simmons has served as Senior Minister of the St. Albans Congregational Church in St. Albans, New York. Under his visionary leadership the congregation has grown from 400 to 1,200 active